

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 00270 171347Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 ACDA-07 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 MC-01 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/043 W

-----171357Z 078262 /41

R 170845Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 650

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0270

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, MI, US

SUBJECT: MALAWIAN REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MILITARY PURCHASES
IN THE U.S.

REF: A. STATE 025304 B. LILONGWE 0020 C. STATE 577

D. MEMCON DEC. 14, 1&76

1. IT IS EMBASSY CONCLUSION THAT GOM WANTS FMS CASH
SALES AUTHORIZATION AND ANY SEEMING UNCLARITY REMAINING RE
SEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ORAL REQUEST OF DECEMBER 14 DUE LARGELY
TO GOM LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF HOM FMS WORKS AND EVEN OF APPLICABLE
TERMINOLOGY.

2. GOM APPROACH OF DECEMBER 14, 1976 WAS MEANT BY THEM
TO CONSTITUTE FORMAL REQUEST EVEN THOUGH NOTHING IN WRITING WAS
GIVEN TO US. (WE DELIBERATELY DID NOT ASK FOR NOTE BECAUSE WE
ALREADY KNEW ANSWER AND FELT IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO STALL AND
AVOID CONFRONTATION MENTIONED REF A, PARA 3 IF MATTER KEPT
VERBAL. ALSO IT WAS NOT VERY CLEAR JUST WHAT GOM HAD IN MIND.)

3. TO CLEAR UP ANY MISPERCEPTION WHICH MAY EXIST IN
DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY DID NOT INITIATE THIS CONTACT OR ENCOURAGE
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THIS REQUEST IN ANY WAY. NEGATIVE RESPONSE RECEIVED TO SIMPLE
REQUEST FOR TRAINING ONE STAFF OFFICER PER YEAR IN US AT GOM
EXPENSE INDICATED TO US COMPLETE LACK FLEXIBILITY OR DISCRETION
RE MATTERS FALLING UNDER ARMS CONTROL LEGISLATION.

4. EMBASSY EQUALLY CONCERNED RE MATTER OF RAISING
FALSE HOPES OR UNNECESSARILY PROVOKING CONFRONTATION BUT

BELIEVE OUR CONTINUED SILENCE IN THIS MATTER MAY DO JUST THAT
WITH PROBABILITY OF MORE DAMAGING FALL OUT WHEN ISSUE JOINED.

5. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT GOM NOW BE GIVEN A NEGATIVE
ANSWER MAKING POINTS IN PARA 4, REFTTEL A. AT SAME TIME WOULD
MENTION IN LOW KEY POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT PURCHASES AS DESCRIBED
PARA 5, REFTTEL A.

6. WE CONSIDER PERMSEC KACHINGWE'S REMARK RE GOM
TURNING TO OTHER SOURCES IF IT CANNOT GET ARMS FROM ITS FRIENDS
AN IDLE THREAT. HOWEVER TURN DOWN LIKELY HAVE STRONG COOLING
EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN DATT AND ARMY LEADERS UNLESS WE CAN
MANAGE FIND SOME SATISFACTION FOR THEM THROUGH DIRECT PURCHASES
ROUTE.

7. BY COINCIDENCE KANCHINGWE CALLED ME ON THIS MATTER JUST
AFTER ABOVE MESSAGE DRAFTED. AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL A, TOLD HIM
GOM REQUEST HAD BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON AND I WOULD MAKE
INQUIRY.
STEVEFSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS
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Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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